51.   (New) An apparatus for performing a lottery ticket transaction, comprising:
a processor; and
a memory connected to the processor,
the memory storing executable program instructions,
the processor operative with the program instructions to
generate merchandise information,
transmit a request for a lottery ticket,
receive lottery ticket information, and
print the lottery ticket information on a receipt.

52.   ~~(New) A method for performing a lottery ticket transaction, comprising:~~
~~calculating a change amount;~~
~~transmitting a request for a lottery ticket, the request including the change amount;~~
~~receiving lottery ticket information that is based on the change amount; and~~
~~printing the lottery ticket information on a receipt.~~

53.   (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising:
generating merchandise information;
and in which the step of printing comprises:
printing the lottery ticket information and the merchandise information on the receipt.

54.   (New) The method of claim 52, in which the lottery ticket information comprises at least one of a price, an authentication code, and a plurality of lottery numbers.

55.   ~~(New) An apparatus for performing a lottery ticket transaction, comprising:~~
~~a processor; and~~
~~a memory connected to the processor,~~
~~the memory storing executable program instructions,~~
~~the processor operative with the program instructions to~~
~~calculate a change amount,~~
~~transmit a request for a lottery ticket,~~
~~receive lottery ticket information that is based on the change amount, and~~
~~print the lottery ticket information on a receipt.~~

56.   (New) An apparatus for performing a lottery ticket transaction, comprising:
means for performing a lottery ticket transaction; and
means for performing a merchandise transaction, the means for performing a
merchandise transaction being in communication with the means for performing a lottery ticket
transaction.

57.   (New) The apparatus of claim 56, further comprising:
means for printing on a receipt an indication of the lottery ticket transaction and an
indication of the merchandise transaction.

58. (New) A method for performing a lottery ticket transaction, comprising:
receiving a request for a lottery ticket, the request including a change amount;
calculating a fractional amount of a full lottery ticket, the full lottery ticket having a full price, the fractional amount being based on the change amount and the full price; and
storing in a database an indication of the fractional amount and an indication of the full lottery ticket.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising:
generating an authentication code based on the fractional amount and the full lottery ticket.

60. (New) A method for authenticating a lottery ticket transaction, comprising:
receiving an authentication code that represents lottery ticket information;
decrypting the authentication code, thereby generating decrypted lottery ticket information; and
determining whether the decrypted lottery ticket information represents a winning lottery ticket.

61. (New) An apparatus for authenticating a lottery ticket transaction, comprising:
a processor; and
a memory connected to the processor,
the memory storing executable program instructions,
the processor operative with the program instructions to
receive an authentication code that represents lottery ticket information,
decrypt the authentication code, thereby generating decrypted lottery ticket information, and
determine whether the decrypted lottery ticket information represents a winning lottery ticket.--

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Preliminary Amendment are 49 - 61. Claims 1 – 48 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 49 - 61 have been added in order to distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 49, 51, 52, 55, 56, 58, 60 and 61 are independent.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy he extended during the telephone conversation of April 6, 1998. Applicants are extremely grateful for the information provided regarding the time within which to provide this Preliminary Amendment.

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